

Region 1 2015 “Volunteers Working with Invasives” Proposal

National Wildlife Refuge(s): Steigerwald Lake, Franz Lake, and Pierce NWRs (Gorge NWRs)

Name of Project: Invasive Plant ED/RR Search

Contact Person(s): Lynn Cornelius, Friends of Ridgefield NWR (FRNWR)

Total amount requested: \$9,000

Project Description (20 Points): The proposed project is a part of the Gorge NWRs’ invasives management program and will help achieve goals and improve targeted habitats identified in the Refuges’ CCP (FWS 2004). This project will expand search work started in 2014 and will focus on ED/ for English ivy, holly, yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, shiny geranium, old man’s beard, slenderflower thistle, knapweeds, Armenian blackberry, and watch species such as garlic mustard and Italian arum. Most of this search will be conducted in areas which have never been searched comprehensively by foot and canoe including difficult access areas. Volunteers will search and control species such as ivy and holly mechanically and yellow flag iris by licensed herbicide application as encountered. Most of the project (\$5,700 or 65%) will be spent in July-Sept 2015. The remaining \$3,300 (35%) will be spent in FY 16 during the dormant season for optimal efficacy searching in woodland and forest for ivy and shiny geranium.

Invasive Species Prevention: ED/RR searches under this project will catch invasions as early as possible to initiate control measures and prevent large infestations.

Invasive Species Control through Treatment and/or Restoration: Control will be implemented in the most difficult areas to access by canoe and on foot when safely compatible with searching. Iris, ivy and holly will be controlled over approximately 10 acres.

Invasive Species Inventory, Surveillance, and/or Monitoring: This project will focus on invasive plant search ED/RR.

Friends Groups and other Volunteers (10 Points): This project will be directed by the FRNWR Habitat Restoration Coordinator in partnership with the Columbia Gorge Stewards friends group. Refuge volunteers will donate more than 100 hours.

Other Partners (10 Points): Info and efforts will be shared with the Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board and land managers for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Natural Areas Program and the Columbia Land Trust, who manage adjoining properties and are the most experienced practitioners. Volunteers will coordinate with the Port of Washougal on ivy removal at Steigerwald Lake NWR.

Criteria for Project Success (10 Points): 500 acres will be searched for target species. Ivy, iris and holly and other species incidentally discovered will be controlled over 10 acres of the most remote access sites.

Budget:

Salaries and Benefits: Friends RNWR Coordinator Jul-Sept FY15	5,300
Salaries and Benefits: Friends Coordinator Oct-Mar FY16	3,200
Volunteer supplies, PPE, training (FY 15 and FY16)	500
TOTAL requested	\$9,000
Volunteer Time (estimated 100 hours)	\$2,200
Administrative overhead, Friends of RNWR (approx. 4%)	\$400
Refuge vehicle use (ATV, canoe, truck) and fuel	\$1,000

2/17/15